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California State Senate

SENATOR
CATHLEEN GALGIANI
FIFTH SENATE DISTRICT



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UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS
CHAIR

April 25, 2017

Delta Stewardship Council
980 9th Street, Ste. 1500
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Delta Plan Amendments

Chairman Fiorini and Council Members:

I respectfully oppose the California WaterFix proposal and the suggested amendments to the plan. The WaterFix, along with a separate California EcoRestore program will not achieve the goal of providing a reliable water supply and reduce reliance on the delta as well as restoring and enhancing the delta ecosystem.

A significant reduction in the Sacramento River flows will degrade the Delta and Suisun Marsh water quality because the Delta Tunnels project would isolate better quality Sacramento River water from the rest of the delta. This will have an impact on fisheries, wildlife, drinking water supplies, and agricultural production as less water and more potential drought bring the brackish water deeper into the delta. Additionally, it will establish a prime environment for invasive plants like water hyacinth, *Egeria densa*, and toxic algal blooms to grow.

There will be a concentrated accumulation of pesticides Methyl Mercury, and Selenium from the removal of the Sacramento River water which helps to dilute these pesticides and is essential to the health of the delta.

Watersheds that feed the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers will face additional burdens to increase unimpaired flows to the Delta to mitigate the loss of Sacramento River water. This will result in further subsidence impacts to California Aqueduct and San Joaquin Valley water systems and infrastructure from groundwater overdrafts and loss of water for recharge of groundwater. This directly contradicts the purpose of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Additionally, The Delta Tunnels project bypasses, but does not address the issue of degrading levees throughout the Delta area that the project proponents cite as a reason for the project. These long-neglected levee systems continue to pose a real flooding threat to much of San Joaquin County and the Delta islands.

I am deeply concerned about the direct and indirect economic burdens and impacts of the Delta Tunnels proposal; both in the delta counties and throughout the state. The potential of this proposed project to incur huge cost over-runs and additional costs and losses to affected areas has the likelihood of creating a financial burden on the taxpayers of the entire state.

The Delta Tunnels project has cost California and Federal taxpayers millions of dollars. The recently adopted state budget includes \$3.6 million from the General Fund for the Delta Stewardship Council to implement the Delta Science Plan and incorporate the Tunnels project into the Delta Plan.

The Delta Tunnels project still does not have a clearly defined finance plan with agreements in place. This proposed project has the potential to cost billions more to those who will not benefit from the project. The report by Cal Fix states that there will be NO additional water from this project to the southern part of the state. Losses and damage to the \$5.2 billion annual agricultural industry alone could be staggering. Forty percent or (\$2.08 billion) of those farms supported by the Delta are located in San Joaquin County. How many billions of additional dollars and lost revenues will these impacts cost California taxpayers? **There needs to be a comprehensive finance plan before we consider proceeding with this risky project.**

I have proposed for years that California needs a comprehensive and consistent approach to water planning that takes into account all projects in development, including regional water projects which have been developed by regional partnerships. I believe that a cooperative comprehensive program with all parties and water agencies working together would be a more productive way to move toward our shared goals rather than spend years and monetary resources in continued conflict and litigation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathleen Galgiani".

Cathleen Galgiani
SENATOR; 5th District